

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 665

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor Bill Elliott on the thirtieth anniversary of his first short-track victory in NASCAR.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to one of the greatest and most beloved racecar drivers of all time, namely "Awesome Bill From Dawsonville" Elliott, number 9 in your program but number one in your heart; and

WHEREAS, on April 10, 1988, William Clyde "Bill" Elliott earned his first career short-track win, taking the checkered flag at Bristol Motor Speedway; after this great beginning, Bill Elliott posted a six-win season, which culminated with a championship in the 1988 Winston Cup Series; and

WHEREAS, a native of Dawsonville, Georgia, Bill Elliott began racing with a family-run team in the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup Series in 1976 and became one of the most esteemed drivers in the league, winning the NASCAR Most Popular Driver Award a record sixteen times; and

WHEREAS, Bill Elliott's best season began at Bristol Motor Speedway in 1988, when he won the Valleydale Meats 500; in lap 493 of the thrilling race, another driver who was attempting to pass caused Bill Elliott to wreck, nearly taking him out of contention; and

WHEREAS, with one of the greatest performances in the history of Bristol Motor Speedway, Bill Elliott recovered from the wreck, regained the lead in lap 498, and controlled the track for the final three laps, winning the race by two car lengths; and

WHEREAS, Bill Elliott still holds records for the fastest qualifying speed at Daytona International Speedway and the fastest qualifying speed in NASCAR history, which he set at Talladega Superspeedway; and

WHEREAS, Bill Elliott was deservedly inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in 2007 and the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Bill Elliott is a living legend among his colleagues and the racing public, and he should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Bill Elliott on the thirtieth anniversary of his first short-track victory in NASCAR, which win occurred at the Bristol Motor Speedway on April 10, 1998, at the beginning of his Winston Cup Series championship season, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.